COMMUNITY

Page 6 – It's Official: Mary Sheffield is Detroit's First Woman Mayor

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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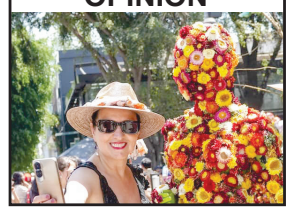
OPINION



Page 9 – Why Donald Trump is wrong about Mexico.

La operación militar estadounidense en territorio venezolano polariza las opiniones en Michigan

Texto y fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz

Anti-war protest at Clark Park against the US military escalation in Venezuela.

Juan Palmar, venezolano natural de Maracaibo, llegó a Estados Unidos en 2023, huyendo de la crisis económica que desencadenó la diáspora venezolana en todo el mundo. La detención de quien, hasta el viernes, fue el dictador de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, no fue ni triste ni amarga. Fue de esperanza. "Es un paso, pero aún queda mucho por hacer", dice Palmar, quien, a sus 33 años, reside en Detroit.

En la madrugada del 3 de enero, durante un ataque en territorio venezolano que dejó aproximadamente 80 muertos, entre civiles y militares, Maduro y su esposa, Cilia Flores, fueron capturados por agentes de la Fuerza Delta en una operación que duró alrededor de 150 minutos. Según el gobierno cubano, 32 miembros de las fuerzas

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The US Military Attack on Venezuelan Soil Sparks Diverse Reactions in Michigan

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Juan Palmar, a 33-year-old Venezuelan originally from Maracaibo, arrived in the U.S. in 2023, leaving behind the economic crisis that pushed the Venezuelan diaspora across the world. The arrest of who until January 2nd was the Venezuelan dictator, Nicolás Maduro, was neither sad nor bitter. It was a source of hope. "It's a step, but there's still a lot to be done," says Palmar, who now lives in Detroit.

In the early hours of January 3, during an attack on Venezuelan soil that left approximately 80 dead, including civilians and military personnel, Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured by Delta Force agents in an operation that lasted 150 minutes. According to the Cuban government, 32 members of Cuba's armed forces died in the military incursion.

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New owners of Southwest Detroit music venue aim to take it up a notch

By Jay Davis – Reprinted with permission from Crain's Detroit Business

A popular Southwest Detroit music venue is under new ownership and bringing on Los Angeles-based entertainment company AEG Presents to handle all of the bookings moving forward.

The partners in El Club agreed to a buyout that saw co-owner Jason Rogalewski taking over ownership from original owners Eric and Graeme Flegenheimer and bringing on Dave Zainea, who co-owns Garden Bowl, music venue the Magic Stick and the Majestic Theater in Midtown Detroit, as a partner. Lauren McGrier will stay on as general manager, the role she's filled since 2021.

El Club opened in spring 2016 and Rogalewski joined as a partner in 2019 after promoting shows at the intimate all-ages venue, which was previously the Mexicantown Fiesta Center. Rogalewski, regional vice president for AEG Presents, said he's always had an affection for the 500-person venue. It features up-and-coming local and national acts as well as mainstream artists ranging from indie rock and punk bands to electronic and pop. In 2018, Rolling Stone Magazine named El Club one of the 10 best live music venues in the United States.

"I fell in love with the space the first time I saw a show there," Rogalewski told Crain's. "El Club felt like a vital piece of Detroit's music fabric, especially for smaller and emerging artists who needed a place to play those early, career-building shows. The club was doing OK, but not financially. I wanted to make sure it succeeded."

Terms of the deal, which closed Nov. 3, were not disclosed. Graeme Flegenheimer did not immediately respond to a Crain's request for comment.

Southwest Detroit music venue El Club is under new ownership.

The transition has been in the works for some time, Rogalewski said. With Graeme Flegenheimer living in Los Angeles for a few years and Eric Flegenheimer in Vermont, running day-to-day operations at El Club became difficult for them, Rogalewski said.

Rogalewski declined to share revenue figures, but he said El Club has averaged about 150 events a year. With new ownership and AEG handling all the bookings moving forward, he projects that number to grow to 200 next year and the caliber of entertainment at the club to improve.

Zainea said he likes the intimacy of El Club, at 4114 Vernor Hwy., and that he's heard music fans like the experience the club offers, along with the neighborhood.

"What I hear on the street is that people love the sound. The staff is really friendly," Zainea said. "It's only going to get better."

El Club will also be available for private events like

The team behind El Club includes (from left) new co-owner Dave Zainea, Bar Manager Morgan Michael, General Manager Lauren McGrier, Production Manager Anthony Stewart, Ticketing Manager Avery Gregory, and co-owner Jason Rogalewski.

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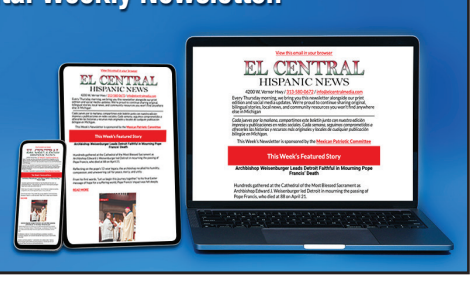

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MANA de Metro Detroit Welcomes New Leadership

By Myrna Mendez for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News

MANA de Metro Detroit proudly announces the election of its new President and Vice President following its Annual Membership Meeting held in December. The organization is pleased to welcome Ana Sandoval as President and Marisol "Mari" Quesada as Vice President, as they begin their terms leading MANA's mission of empowering Latinas through leadership development, mentorship, and community engagement.

Ana Sandoval - MANA President starting January 2026

Ana Sandoval, elected President, joined MANA in 2024 and has already made a meaningful impact through her service on the Mentorship Committee and as a MANA mentor. A proud Latina leader born and raised in Southwest Detroit to immigrant parents from Mexico, Ana is a graduate of Detroit Public Schools and earned her Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management from Wayne State University.

She brings more than eight years of experience in finance within the automotive industry, along with a strong commitment to mentorship and community leadership. Beyond MANA, Ana serves as a five-year mentor with Winning Futures and serves on her neighborhood board (Hubbard Richard Resident Association). Ana is also a member of ALPFA (Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting) Michigan Professional Chapter. Her leadership is rooted in cultural pride, connection, and a deep belief in giving back to the community that shaped her.

Joining her as Vice President is Marisol "Mari" Quesada, who became a MANA member in 2023 and quickly emerged as a dedicated and results-driven leader. In 2024, Mari assumed the role of Membership Coordinator, where she successfully organized membership data and developed statistical tracking for the organization. Her passion for service led her to become an active member of the Fundraising Committee, later stepping into the role of Fundraising Co-Chair in early 2025. Mari works in Human Resources Project Management for Dearborn Public Schools and brings valuable organizational and analytical skills to her leadership role within MANA.

Marisol (Mari) Quesada - MANA Vice President starting January 2026

In addition to the newly elected officers, MANA de Metro Detroit is supported by a strong and committed Executive Board. The incumbent officers include Micheline Silva, Secretary, and Tanya Caruana, Treasurer. Committee Chairs are as follows: Scholarship Selection Committee – Ines de Jesus and Rocio Contreras; Mentorship Committee – Diana Ortega and Maria Kahn; Fundraising Committee – Belda Garza and Marisol Quesada; Event Planning Committee – Laura Torres and Marcia Mercado; and Social Media Committee – Myrna Mendez and Jonelle Lopez.

As MANA welcomes new leadership, the organization also extends its deepest gratitude to outgoing President Stephanie Lopez Gilmore and Vice President Cindy Gamboa for their exceptional leadership and service from 2022 to 2025. Their dedication over the past four years has helped strengthen MANA's impact and legacy, and the organization looks forward to their continued involvement and support.

MANA's 2026 President, Ana Sandoval and Vice President, Mari Quesada volunteering at Most Holy Trinity Church for the Annual Children's Christmas Party.

With this transition, MANA de Metro Detroit remains committed to uplifting Latina professionals and building a strong, connected community for future generations.

MANA 2026 Officers - Tanya Caruana, Treasurer - Micheline Silva, Secretary - Vice President, Mari Quesada - President, Ana Sandoval

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Southwest Detroit Students Find Opportunities at Advanced Technology Academy

By Juan Ochoa

Advanced Technology Academy (ATA), a K-12 charter public school with an Early Middle College program, continues to attract many students from Southwest Detroit, emphasizing real-world preparedness, robust college partnerships, and strong graduation rates.

Over 1,000 students are currently enrolled at ATA, which spans grades kindergarten through 12, plus an additional "13th year" for early middle college students. Executive Director Barry Hawthorne said that only a small fraction of students are from Dearborn, "The rest are from Detroit, and the Hispanic population is growing even more."

The school's model sets it apart from traditional districts, providing three primary high school pathways—concurrent college enrollment, state-approved vocational programs, and hands-on apprenticeships.

Hawthorne said that as a state-approved vocational technical school, ATA has the authority to issue its own career certificates to students who complete program requirements. "Everybody gets at least a certificate. Not everybody has to go to college, but they can come out with a certificate of skill," he said.

ATA's Early Middle College program is a cornerstone of its academic offerings, enabling students to earn up to an associate degree while completing high school coursework. "If a student enrolls in the school by the 11th grade, they are entitled to a 13th year of free tuition, which is a state school aid," Hawthorne said.

College partnerships are central to ATA's curriculum, with transfer agreements finalized with Henry Ford College, Wayne State University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University, and Davenport University under the "Learn4Ward" program.

The academy leverages a nearly $2 million mechatronics lab and plant simulator created with guidance from the Ford Motor Company and an active Business Education Advisory Council comprised of industry leaders. The partnerships allow students to train on the same equipment found in the manufacturing sector, gaining technical and engineering skills aligned with workforce needs.

ATA's commitment to real-world preparation includes not just academics but wrap-around student supports. Its bilingual, Spanish-speaking staff and resources specifically address the needs of the large Spanish-speaking population recruited from Southwest Detroit. "I had over 70 to 80 dreamer families, we have made it very friendly for them," Hawthorne said.

Kristina Serratos, Enrollment Administrative Assistant, described the additional support for families. "We have a lot of our Latino families that reach out for services, anywhere from food to counseling services." She added, "I do a lot of work with the CEO, Miss Flores, who also provides a lot of one-on-one therapeutic services with children, too."

Further, ATA has partnered with Latino Family Services to help provide transportation and support for families living in the Clark and Patton Park areas. Students can also purchase Detroit Department of Transportation bus passes. "It's only $2 for the card, so you get unlimited rides, too," said Robert Robbins, Marketing & Communications Director.

ATA administrators underscore the school's mission of bringing college and career readiness opportunities to a population often underserved across Michigan's educational landscape. "Charter schools were never meant to replace public school districts," said Hawthorne. "They are meant to give choice, especially for economically disadvantaged students who can come out and have opportunities they never would have before."

ATA Executive Director Barry Hawthorne proudly highlights equipment and amenities available to students.

Phones are banned and students wear uniforms to reduce distractions and prevent concerns among classmates about what others are wearing.

These measures contribute to a positive learning environment, reflected in ATA's notably high graduation rates. More than 93 percent of students graduate, and career readiness coaching begins as early as middle school, encouraging students to earn a national career readiness certificate by the time they complete their studies.

ATA also continues to expand bilingual outreach efforts throughout Southwest Detroit, focusing especially on the Latino community. The school conducts door-to-door recruiting and hosts community events to raise awareness about its educational pathways and resources.

As families seek new opportunities and brighter futures for their children, ATA stands out for its strong partnerships, rigorous academics, industry-shaped curriculum, and ongoing commitment to serving Southwest Detroit students from kindergarten through college and career.

For more information about Advanced Technology Academy and its programs, call (313) 625-4700, email info@my.atafordpas.org, visit 4801 Oakman Blvd., Dearborn, MI 48126, or go online to www.atafordpas.org.

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Juan Ochoa is a freelance writer based in Detroit. He has experience with WXYZ-TV, UNESCO, World Radio Paris, and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, exploring nature, and spending time with family and friends.

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La operación militar estadounidense polariza las opiniones

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armadas cubanas murieron en la incursión militar. Según el presidente del Estado Mayor Conjunto, el general Dan Caine, la inteligencia estadounidense lo había planeado durante meses.

La CIA había desplegado helicópteros, drones y aviones de combate. Mientras las explosiones retumbaban el cielo caribeño y despertaban a los venezolanos en Puerto La Guajira y en la capital, Caracas, la Operación "Resolución Absoluta" hacía realidad las amenazas que Trump vino haciendo contra el dictador chavista desde su primer gobierno.

El sábado por la noche, escoltado por decenas de agentes de la DEA, Maduro, junto a su esposa, aterrizó al norte de la ciudad de Nueva York, vistiendo una sudadera, gafas oscuras y esposado de manos y pies. "Todavía soy el presidente de Venezuela", dijo Maduro ante el tribunal federal del distrito sur de Nueva York este lunes.

A Maduro y Flores, la fiscalía general les imputa conspiración narcoterrorista, conspiración para importar cocaína y posesión de ametralladoras. "Durante más de 25 años, los líderes de Venezuela han abusado de sus cargos públicos y han corrompido instituciones que antes eran legítimas para importar toneladas de cocaína a Estados Unidos", inicia el documento publicado por la fiscalía con las acusaciones. La pareja se declaró inocente.

Protesta en Clark Park contra la escalada militar de Estados Unidos en Venezuela.

Tan pronto como la noticia llegó al mundo, políticos de Michigan no tardaron en reaccionar. Desde la mañana del sábado, los representantes republicanos John Moolenaar, R-Caledonia, Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, y Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, celebraron la operación militar y condenaron el régimen chavista.

Aric Nesbitt, senador estatal de Michigan por el municipio de Porter, quien se postula para gobernador por el Partido Republicano, felicitó a Donald Trump por la captura de Maduro. "Esta es una gran victoria en la guerra contra el narcoterrorismo", escribió en una publicación de X.

Por otro lado, líderes políticos como la senadora estadounidense Elissa Slotkin, el senador de Michigan Gary Peters y la representante estadounidense Rashida Tlaib, demócrata por Detroit, criticaron los ataques y condenaron al gobierno de Maduro.

"El bombardeo ilegal y no provocado de Venezuela por parte de Trump, y el secuestro de su presidente, son graves violaciones del derecho internacional y de la Constitución de Estados Unidos. El pueblo estadounidense no quiere otra guerra para cambiar de régimen en el extranjero", escribió Tlaib en una publicación en redes sociales.

En medio de las bajas temperaturas, la bandera venezolana ondeaba en Hart Plaza y Clark Park; mientras algunas decenas de personas se reunían para protestar contra la escalada militar de Estados Unidos en territorio venezolano. En Grand Rapids, decenas de manifestantes anti- guerra se reunieron en Rosa Parks Circle, donde marcharon contra las acciones de Trump.

"La administración Trump ha perpetrado innumerables violaciones de los derechos humanos en tan solo 11 meses. Hemos visto a estudiantes arrebatados de sus familias. Nuestros impuestos siguen financiando el genocidio sionista sobre el pueblo palestino, y ahora están comenzando una nueva guerra contra Venezuela", dijo Jo, miembro de la Organización Socialista Freedom Road.

Para Salomón, un estudiante venezolano de informática en la Universidad Estatal de Michigan (MSU), la historia no es tan simple. "Entiendo por qué no confían en Trump, yo tampoco, pero finalmente, después de 26 años, el régimen socialista que reprimió y mató de hambre a mi país ha terminado".

Kassandra Rodriguez speaks at the Anti-war protest at Clark Park against the US military escalation in Venezuela.

Mientras que, en Grand Rapids, la fría tarde del sábado, varias docenas de personas marcharon por el centro de la ciudad con pancartas y cánticos anti-guerra, y en apoyo a Nicolás Maduro.

"Mientras estaba en Venezuela, Estados Unidos incautó ilegalmente un petrolero venezolano que se dirigía a Cuba. Este acto atroz no solo tenía como objetivo prolongar y aumentar el sufrimiento del pueblo cubano, sino también infundir miedo a cualquiera que se atreviera a oponerse al complejo militar más poderoso e inmoral del mundo", declaró Jessica Plitcha, miembro de la Organización Socialista Freedom Road. Tras la protesta, Plitcha fue arrestada por la policía de Grand Rapids y liberada horas después.

A la captura de Maduro y su mujer le precedió la encarnizada "guerra contra las drogas" que Trump lanzó a mediados de 2025 sobre la zona del Caribe.

Desde septiembre, fuerzas militares estadounidenses han llevado a cabo más de 30 ataques contra pequeñas lanchas cerca de la costa venezolana, en el Mar Caribe y en el Océano Pacífico; embarcaciones que Trump condenó por estar involucradas en el narcotráfico y el transporte de estupefacientes.

El presidente republicano también formuló diversas acusaciones de terrorismo y de narcotráfico de fentanilo contra Nicolás Maduro y la cúpula chavista. Estas acusaciones fueron cuestionadas por la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito, que afirmó que ni Venezuela ni Maduro parecían desempeñar un papel significativo en el tráfico de fentanilo hacia Estados Unidos.

La captura e incautación de buques petroleros vinculados a Venezuela por parte de las fuerzas militares estadounidenses presagiaron lo que estaba por venir.

Ni Corina Machado ni Edmundo González asumirán el liderazgo de Venezuela. "Ella no cuenta con el respeto del pueblo", dijo Trump refiriéndose a un posible gobierno de Machado.

Washington no solo tomará el control del país sudamericano hasta que se garantice una transición "segura y confiable", sino que las compañías petroleras estadounidenses entrarán en Venezuela para invertir millones de dólares en la reparación de su infraestructura petrolera, afirmó Trump en una conferencia de prensa en Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

Para el candidato al Senado estadounidense por el estado de Michigan, Abdul El-Sayed, la respuesta a todo este conflicto es el petróleo venezolano. El país llanero se encuentra sobre una de las mayores reservas de petróleo pesado del mundo. "Trump atacó a Venezuela para aumentar las ganancias de las compañías petroleras. Y tus primas de seguro médico acaban de subir un promedio del 10%", declaró en una publicación en redes sociales.

Si bien la lucha por la posesión del famoso petróleo venezolano ha llevado a las fuerzas estadounidenses a tierra, mar y aire venezolanos, Palmar afirma que se trata simplemente de un cambio de liderazgo que compite por el control de este recurso. "Durante 30 años, el chavismo ha regalado nuestro petróleo a sus aliados, y nadie dijo nada. Mientras tanto, en Venezuela, el sistema productivo está en ruinas", dice. "Venezuela necesita inversiones que mejoren la calidad de vida de los venezolanos".

Trump reclamó que quiere el acceso total a toda Venezuela a la vez que comenzó a amenazar a otros líderes latinoamericanos. La nueva líder de Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, exvicepresidenta de Maduro, declaró inicialmente que Venezuela "no es una colonia"; sin embargo, el domingo, tendió una rama de olivo a Washington.

"Extendemos una invitación al Gobierno de Estados Unidos para trabajar juntos en una agenda de cooperación, orientada al desarrollo compartido, en el marco del derecho internacional y que fortalezca la convivencia pacífica duradera", declaró en una publicación en redes sociales.

De momento, a pesar de la toma de posesión de Rodríguez como presidenta el lunes, Trump ha designado a cuatro personajes para la supervisión de Venezuela: el secretario de Estado, Marco Rubio, el jefe del Pentágono, Pete Hegseth; su jefe de gabinete adjunto y asesor de política interna, Stephen Miller; y el vicepresidente J.D. Vance. Sin embargo, enfatizó que él mismo estará a cargo en última instancia.

Por ahora, pensar en el regreso a casa no es una opción para Palmar, ya que el juicio de Maduro en suelo estadounidense fue solo un paso en el proceso. Palmar dice que la policía bolivariana extorsiona a quienes regresan, ya sea voluntariamente o por deportación, exigiéndoles miles de dólares para liberarlos. "Todavía queda mucho por hacer en Venezuela. En algún punto, todos queremos regresar a nuestros países después de haber emigrado a tantos lugares diferentes, pero las cosas no han cambiado por completo y todavía tengo metas que cumplir", afirma Palmar.

New owners of music venue aim to take it up a notch

Continued from page 1

weddings, Rogalewski said.

"Based on the calendar and how far out we're booking, like six to nine months, we're already looking really healthy," he said. "We don't have the biggest space for weddings but we have a good-sized outdoor patio, which helps sell it as a space for private parties."

The new ownership team in January will reopen a kitchen that has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020. Rogalewski and Zainea will bring on a full-time kitchen manager and part-time staff. The menu will feature wood-fired pizza.

"People have been asking about the food since it went away," Rogalewski said. "Bringing the kitchen back is a big priority."

The moves come following some renovation work completed early this year that gives El Club a more open layout. Zainea served as the general contractor on the project, according to Rogalewski. Working on that project is how Rogalewski approached Zainea about joining him as a partner in El Club. The two have worked together for more than a decade through a promotion partnership between the Majestic and AEG.

"(Zainea) is handy, he understands venues and he cares about Detroit's music ecosystem," Rogalewski said. "We'd been working together for years. It just made sense."

Zainea agreed that his relationship with Rogalewski would make them strong partners. Zainea said Rogalewski drives the business and he just wants to be a part of the team to help develop it further while continuing to run his other businesses.

"I go to a lot of shows. I've been in this business a long time," Zainea said. "I just want to transfer what I learned at the Majestic over there."

McGrier said she's excited about the changes, including new systems Zainea is implementing that will improve the club's accounting and general business flow.

The club has a big responsibility to introduce the next wave of major artists to the city, McGrier said.

"We're a place that feels like home, comfortable and welcoming to all walks of life, whether they are guests or performers," McGrier said in an email to Crain's. "I see El Club as Detroit's 'Apollo.' If an artist can sell out this room with a phenomenal performance, they often move on to bigger spaces and world tours. This is the crucial importance of small concert spaces. This room also allows artists to engage with their fans in a way that leaves a lasting impression. Additionally, we are proud to be a starting point for people who are beginning their careers in the industry."

Rogalewski hopes El Club can launch more of those big careers. He's just as excited about the changes coming to the spot as a fan of music as he is as a businessman.

"I'm beyond excited. El Club is still one of my favorite places to see shows," Rogalewski said. "I've always preferred seeing new bands in venues like this, those first or second times they come through a market, over arena shows. So much gets lost in arena spaces. The intimacy of El Club is something special to me."

Jay Davis is a reporter covering restaurants, retail and small business issues for Crain's Detroit Business. Prior to joining Crain's in 2020, Jay held roles covering prep sports, local government, and education.

It's Official: Mary Sheffield is Detroit's 76th Mayor, Making History as Detroit's First Woman Mayor

On New Year's Day, Mary Sheffield took the official oath of office, making her Detroit's 76th mayor and the first woman to hold the office in the city's more than 300-year history. Mayor Sheffield took the oath at 10 a.m. on January 1 at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. She was sworn in by Detroit City Clerk Janice M. Winfrey and surrounded by a small group of family members.

Mayor Sheffield enters office with a strong record of public service and advocacy focused on collaboration, equity and opportunity for all. Her administration will prioritize initiatives that support neighborhoods, enhance public safety, expand education and job opportunities, address affordable housing and homelessness and foster sustainable growth across Detroit.

"I am incredibly honored to serve as Detroit's mayor," said Mayor Sheffield. "This moment is bigger than me – it represents progress, possibility and the power of community. Together, we will work to ensure Detroit's future is inclusive, equitable and rooted in opportunity for every neighborhood."

In her first act as Mayor, Mayor Sheffield met with Detroit's first responders, Homeless Service Providers and volunteers to thank them for their service to Detroiters.

"My administration will be rooted in service to others. On my first day as mayor, it was important for me to thank those who quietly serve our community every day, particularly our first responders and those providing critical support to our most vulnerable residents," Mayor Sheffield said. "Serving Detroiters and leading city employees effectively begins with meeting them where they are, listening and letting them know how much they are valued."

Mayor Sheffield will participate in a formal Investiture Ceremony on Friday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m., at the Detroit Opera House. This event will be the ceremonial swearing-in of the Mayor, City Council and Board of Police Commissioners and represents a significant moment for our city as we begin a new chapter of leadership and service.

In a statement, Mayor Sheffield congratulated "our new City Council President James Tate and Council President Pro Tempore Coleman Young II on being chosen by their colleagues today to these new Council leadership roles. They are both outstanding public servants and leaders. I look forward to working with them and with members of our new Council as we work together to help Detroit Rise Higher for those we all serve!"

Mayor Mary Sheffield takes the oath of office from Clerk Janice Winfrey to become Detroit's 76th Mayor.

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Detroit Fire Department Reminds Bars and Restaurants of Fire Safety Requirements Following Tragic Swiss Bar Fire

In the wake of the tragic fire in Switzerland, the Detroit Fire Department is reminding business owners and residents that fire safety requirements inside bars, restaurants, and other places of public assembly are strictly regulated under the Detroit City Code — and exist to prevent exactly this type of loss of life.

Under Detroit's Fire Prevention and Protection Code, open flames are prohibited inside bars and restaurants unless expressly approved and permitted by the Fire Marshal. This includes — but is not limited to — sparklers, fireworks, pyrotechnics, novelty ignition devices, and any decorative or celebratory flame-producing items. These items present a serious ignition risk, particularly in crowded indoor environments with combustible furnishings and limited escape time.

The recent bar fire in Switzerland, which authorities have reported was likely started by sparklers coming in contact with untreated foam padding on the ceiling, underscores the devastating consequences that can occur when prohibited ignition sources are introduced into enclosed public spaces.

Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms emphasized that compliance with fire safety requirements is a shared responsibility. "Fire safety regulations are not arbitrary — they are built on hard lessons learned from tragedies like this," said Commissioner Simms. "Business owners have a responsibility to do everything possible to protect the people who walk through their doors. That means following the fire code, eliminating unnecessary risks, and never allowing activities that could put lives in danger."

Fire Marshal Don Thomas stressed that Detroit's fire codes are designed to prevent fires before they start — and that enforcement is paired with education and support. "Compliance with the Detroit City Code is essential to public safety," said Fire Marshal Thomas. "Our inspectors work hard every day to help businesses understand what is allowed, what is prohibited, and how to correct issues before they become emergencies. Fire prevention is always the goal."

Detroit's Fire Marshal Division inspected more than 400 bars and restaurants in 2025 alone.

Key fire safety requirements for bars and restaurants include:

- **No open flames or ignition sources:** Sparklers, fireworks, pyrotechnics, open-flame decorations, and similar devices are prohibited inside establishments unless specifically reviewed, approved, and permitted by the Detroit Fire Marshal Division.
- **Valid fire permit required:** All bars and restaurants must maintain a current fire safety permit, confirming the establishment has been inspected and meets minimum fire and life-safety standards.
- **Clear and accessible exits:** All exit doors, aisles, and paths of egress must remain unobstructed, illuminated, and readily accessible at all times. Exit doors must open freely without special knowledge, keys, or force.
- **Operational fire protection systems:** Required fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, and other life-safety equipment must be installed, maintained, and tested as required by code.
- **Portable fire extinguishers:** Properly rated fire extinguishers must be installed, visible, accessible, and maintained in accordance with code requirements.
- **Commercial kitchen protections:** Cooking operations must be protected by approved hood and fire suppression systems that are routinely inspected and serviced.
- **Regular inspections:** Fire safety inspections are conducted to ensure ongoing compliance. Inspectors work directly with business owners to identify hazards and outline corrective actions.

The Detroit Fire Department urges all business owners to review their fire safety practices immediately, ensure their establishments are fully compliant, and contact the Fire Marshal Division with any questions regarding permitted activities or prohibited hazards.

"Detroit is home to some of the most vibrant restaurants and bars in the country, and the Detroit Fire Department is committed to making sure residents and visitors can enjoy them safely," said Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms.

For more information or to schedule an inspection, visit https://detroitmi.gov/departments/detroit-fire-department/fire-marshal or contact the Detroit Fire Marshal Division at (313) 596-2954.

Business owners can book inspections online at detroitmi.gov

Patrons of Detroit bars and restaurants are asked to report any potential violations to DFD at (313) 596-2954

Restaurant and Bar Safety
Detroit Fire Department
Site Safety Standards
Keep the path to exits clear and unobstructed.
All exit doors, aisles, and paths of egress must remain unobstructed, illuminated, and readily accessible at all times. Exit doors must open freely without special knowledge, keys, or force.
Required fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, and other life-safety equipment must be installed, maintained, and tested as required by code.
All bars and restaurants must maintain a current fire safety permit, confirming the establishment has been inspected and meets minimum fire and life-safety standards.
Fire Hazard Mitigation
The use of sparklers inside restaurants and bars not permitted.
No open flames. Sparklers, fireworks, and pyrotechnics are prohibited inside establishments unless approve by the Detroit Fire Marshal Division.
No large candles. Candles must be securely placed on a sturdy base and the candle flame needs to be protected by glass.
Cooking operations must be protected by approved hood and fire suppression systems and routinely inspected and serviced.
Gas lights are permitted, provided that precautions are taken, but only with prior approval of the Fire Marshal Division.
To schedule a business inspection or to report unsafe activity call:
(313) 596-2954
Or visit:
detroitmi.gov/departments/detroit-fire-department/fire-marshal
CITY OF DETROIT

Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield Declares Detroit will be Largest City in the Nation to Participate in Rx Kids

Mayor Mary Sheffield is wasting no time making history—again. Just four days after taking the oath of office, Mayor Sheffield announced this past Monday that Detroit will be the largest city in the nation to participate in Michigan State University's Rx Kids, a transformational mom and baby cash prescription program designed to strengthen family financial security and improve health. With an estimated 8,000 babies born in Detroit each year, this historic expansion signals a bold new chapter for Detroit—setting a new national standard for how cities show up for families when it matters most.

"Detroit has always been a city that leads with heart and courage, and today we are once again setting a national standard by ensuring that every mother has real support, and every baby has a strong start," said Mayor Sheffield. " I spoke many times during my campaign about a renewed focus on key quality of life supports that directly impact Detroit families. I am proud to say that as Mayor of Detroit, I have fought hard to bring RX Kids to Detroit and have made it a priority to launch this transformational program in the first 100 days of my

Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield is joined by Dr. Mona Hanna at the launch of the State of Michigan's innovative children's program offering financial support to new mothers in Detroit.

administration. "Mayor Mary Sheffield today announced the reappointment of five experienced city government leaders with proven track records in key areas of Public Safety, Finance, Law, and Human Resources.

Enrollment for RX Kids in the City of Detroit is anticipated to open within the first 100 days of Mayor Sheffield's Administration. For many families, income drops and financial stress peaks during pregnancy and infancy—one of the most consequential periods for lifelong health and wellbeing. RX Kids responds by providing a $1,500 cash prescription during pregnancy, followed by $500 per month throughout the baby's first six months. With no strings attached, the program trusts families with the resources they need during one of the most critical and financially vulnerable periods of parenthood.

Rx Kids is a program of Michigan State University, led by Mona Hanna, MD, MPH, pediatrician and associate dean of public health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. The program is administered by the international leader in cash transfers, GiveDirectly.

Rx Kids is a public–private partnership made possible by historic, bipartisan support from the State of Michigan, which committed $250 million for expansion of the program over three years in the FY2026 budget, matched by philanthropic, corporate, and local partners.

"Rx Kids is the nation's first-ever program that puts $7,500 directly in the pockets of new moms to help them care for their babies while improving their finances and health, and I'm so proud that Mayor Sheffield is expanding it into Detroit," said Governor Whitmer. "As families face the squeeze right now from high grocery, health care, and housing costs, we need to work together to make a real difference in their lives and ensure every baby born in Michigan gets a fair shot at a good life. With today's expansion, we're making it easier for every family with a newborn in Detroit to keep a roof over their head, put food on the table, and see a doctor when they need one. We will continue finding new ways to drive down costs, reduce poverty, and help more moms and babies live happy, healthy lives."

The City of Detroit is investing $500,000 annually for three years ($1.5 million total), alongside support from several community partners. The annual $4 million private and public local investment will potentially result in $105 million in cash payments to moms and infants and could be a huge boost to Detroit businesses and the City's economy.

Families looking to learn more about RX Kids should visit www.RxKids.org. Additional city resources can be found on the City of Detroit website at www.detroitmi.gov. A future announcement will be made when the program is set to go live and enrollment opens.

About Rx Kids

Rx Kids is a program led by Michigan State University and administered by GiveDirectly. RX Kids is a public-private partnership made possible with generous support from the State of Michigan and a growing family of funders and supporters.

More potent than any prescribed pill, RX Kids aims to improve health, hope, and opportunity. Science demonstrates the lifelong consequences of early adversity but also the promise of science-based, community-driven solutions. For many families, income plunges and poverty spikes right before a child is born and remains high throughout the first year. RX Kids boldly reimagines how we care for each other by walking alongside families.

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

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MILegalServices.org

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UCHCDetroit.org

Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org

www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
313-224-5990

¡Estamos aquí para ayudarle!

The US Military Attack Sparks Diverse Reactions

Continued from page 1

According to the Joint Chiefs chairman, Gen. Dan Caine, the US intelligence had planned for months.

As explosions thundered in the Caribbean sky, and helicopters and drones deployed by the CIA awakened Venezuelans in Port La Guajira and the capital, Caracas, Operation "Absolute Resolve" became reality on the threats Trump had made against the Chavista dictator since Trump's first term.

On Saturday night, escorted by dozens of DEA agents, Maduro and Flores landed north of New York City, wearing a sweatshirt, sunglasses, and handcuffed at the hands and feet. "I am still the president of Venezuela," Maduro told the federal court in the Southern District of New York this Monday.

Maduro and his wife are charged by the Attorney General's office with narco-terrorism conspiracy, conspiracy to import cocaine, and possession of machine guns. "For more than 25 years, the leaders of Venezuela have abused their public offices and corrupted previously legitimate institutions to import tons of cocaine into the United States," begins the document published by the prosecution outlining the charges. The couple pleaded not guilty.

Anti-war protest at Clark Park against the US military escalation in Venezuela.

As soon as the news reached the world, reactions from Michigan political leaders were swift. Starting Saturday morning, Republicans, including U.S. Reps. John Moolenaar, R-Caledonia, Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, and Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, celebrated the military operation and condemned Venezuela's now-tottering Chavista regime.

Aric Nesbitt, a Michigan state senator from Porter Township, who is running for governor as a Republican, congratulated Donald Trump on the capture of Maduro. "This is a major win in the war against narco-terrorism," he wrote in an X post.

On the other hand, political leaders such as U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin, Michigan Senator Gary Peters, and U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, criticized the attacks while condemning the Maduro government.

"Trump's illegal and unprovoked bombing of Venezuela and kidnapping of its president are serious violations of international law and the U.S. Constitution. The American people do not want another regime change war abroad," Tlaib wrote on a social media post.

Held aloft in the freezing temperatures, the Venezuelan flag waved in the Hart Plaza and Clark Park; meanwhile, dozens of people gathered around to protest against the military escalation by the United States on Venezuelan soil. In Grand Rapids, dozens of anti-war demonstrators met at Rosa Parks Circle, where they marched against the military escalation.

"The Trump administration has perpetuated countless human rights violations in just 11 months. We have seen students ripped from their families. Our tax dollars continue to fund the Zionist genocide of the Palestinian people, and now starting a new war with Venezuela," said Jo, a member of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

For Salomón, a Venezuelan computer science student at MSU, the story isn't so simple. "I understand why they don't trust Trump, I don't either, but finally, after 26 years, the socialist regime that repressed and starved my country is over."

Meanwhile, in Grand Rapids on Saturday afternoon, amidst the snow, several dozen people marched through downtown GR with anti-war signs and chants, and in support of Nicolás Maduro.

"While I was in Venezuela, the US illegally seized a Venezuelan oil tanker heading to Cuba. Not only was this egregious act meant to prolong and increase the suffering of the Cuban people, but it was also meant to instill fear into anyone who dared stand against the most powerful and immoral military complex in the world, said Jessica Plitcha, a Freedom Road Socialist Organization member. After the protest, Plitcha was arrested by GRPD and released hours after.

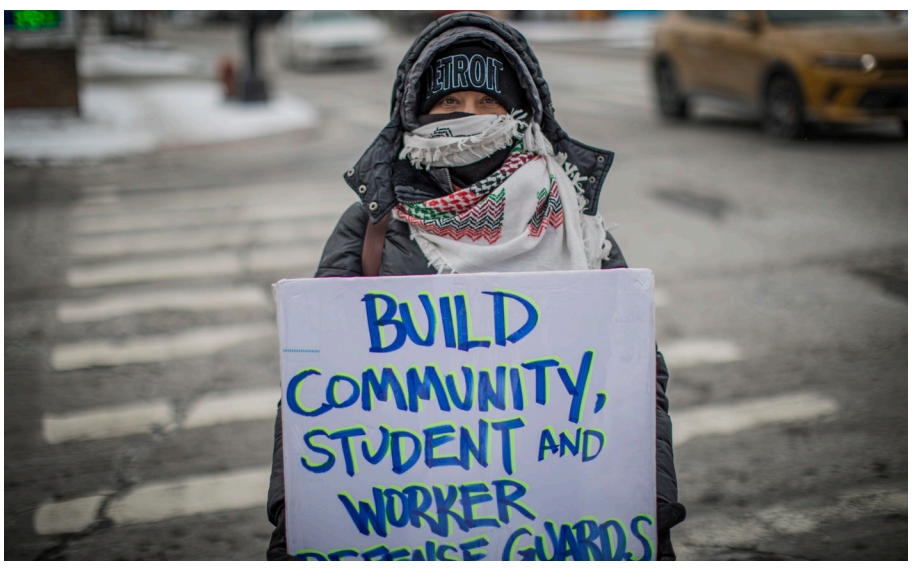
The capture of Maduro was preceded by the fierce "war on drugs" that Trump launched in mid-2025.

Since September, more than 30 attacks have been carried out by American military forces against small boats near the Venezuelan coast in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean; boats that Trump condemned as being involved in drug trafficking and transporting narcotics. The Republican president also made various accusations of terrorism and fentanyl-related drug trafficking against Nicolás Maduro and his Chavista inner circle. These accusations were questioned by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which stated that neither Venezuela nor Maduro appeared to play a significant role in the trafficking of fentanyl to the United States.

The later capture and confiscation of oil tankers linked to Venezuela by American military forces foreshadowed what was to come.

Neither Corina Machado nor Edmundo González will assume the leadership of Venezuela. "She doesn't have the respect of the people," Trump referred to a possible government by Machado. Washington will not only take control of the South American country until a "safe and reliable" transition can be guaranteed, but American oil companies will also enter Venezuela to invest millions of dollars in repairing its oil infrastructure, as Trump affirmed in a press conference at Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

For U.S. Senate candidate for the state of Michigan, Abdul El-Sayed, the answer to this entire conflict is Venezuelan oil, which holds one of the largest reserves of heavy oil in the world. "Trump attacked Venezuela to give oil companies a bump in profits. And your healthcare premiums just went up by an average of 10% across the board," he stated on a social media post.



While the struggle for control of Venezuelan oil has brought American forces to Venezuelan land, sea, and air, Palmar asserts that it's merely a change of leadership vying for control of this resource. "For 30 years, Chavismo has given away our oil to other countries, and nobody batted an eye. Meanwhile, in Venezuela, the productive system is in ruins," he says.

"Venezuela needs investment that will improve the lives of Venezuelans."

Trump has demanded full access to all of Venezuela while simultaneously beginning to threaten other Latin American leaders. Venezuela's new leader, Delcy Rodríguez, Maduro's former vice president, initially declared that Venezuela "is not a colony"; however, on Sunday, she extended an olive branch to Washington.

"We extend an invitation to the U.S. Government to work together on a cooperation agenda, oriented towards shared development, within the framework of international law and that strengthens lasting community coexistence," she stated on a social media post.

For the moment, despite Rodríguez's swearing-in as president on Monday, Trump has appointed four individuals to supervise Venezuela: Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the head of the Pentagon, Pete Hegseth; his deputy chief of staff and domestic policy advisor, Stephen Miller; and Vice President J.D. Vance. However, he emphasized that he himself will be ultimately in charge.

Thinking about returning to Venezuela is not an option for Palmar right now, as Maduro's trial on American soil was only one step in the process. Palmar says that Bolivarian police extort those who return, whether voluntarily or through deportation, along with thousands of dollars to release them. "There is still much to be done in Venezuela. At some point, we all want to return to our countries after having migrated to so many different places, but things haven't changed completely, and I still have goals to achieve," Palmar affirms.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

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Opinion: Why Donald Trump is Wrong About Mexico

by Charlotte Smith | Reprinted with permission of Mexico News Daily

If you've spent time in Mexico, you've likely felt a familiar mix of fascination, frustration, and affection for a country that's magnetic and vividly alive. For Americans who know Mexico primarily through headlines, however, it can appear almost unrecognisable: a nation portrayed as unstable and chiefly responsible for a host of U.S. problems.

That portrayal closely mirrors the rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump. Across speeches, social media posts, and televised interviews, Mexico is often cast as a country willfully flooding the United States with drugs and failing to control migration. In a Fox News interview on Saturday, January 3, following recent events in Venezuela, Trump even hinted at the possibility of conflict much closer to home.

There is a lot more to life in Mexico than surface level political rhetoric, as anyone who has spent time in the country is well aware. (Gerson Repreza/Unsplash)

"Your vice president, JD Vance, said that the message is pretty clear: that drug trafficking must stop. So was this operation a message that you're sending to Mexico, to Claudia Sheinbaum, the president there?" Fox's Griff Jenkins asked.

"Well, it wasn't meant to be, we're very friendly with her, she's a good woman," Trump began. "But the cartels are running Mexico. She's not running Mexico. We could be politically correct and be nice and say, 'Oh, yes, she is.' No, no. She's very, you know, she's very frightened of the cartels. They're running Mexico. And I've asked her numerous times, 'Would you like us to take out the cartels?' Something is gonna have to be done with Mexico."

Trump's language frames Mexico less as a neighbour or partner and more as a looming threat. For those who've never travelled south of the border, this one-dimensional depiction can easily become the dominant lens through which the country is viewed.

The reality, however, is far more intricate.

Misrepresented blame

One of Trump's most frequent claims is that Mexico is deliberately flooding the United States with fentanyl, leading to hundreds of thousands of deaths. While the CDC confirms the opioid crisis has indeed resulted in more than 100,000 overdose fatalities annually in the U.S., attributing this tragedy solely to Mexico oversimplifies a deeply complex issue.

Mexico is a land of color, contrast, warmth and joy — in stark opposition to the sepia-tinted badlands that some U.S. politicians portray it as. (Anna Bruce)

Fentanyl does cross into the U.S. from Mexico, but through criminal networks, not as a matter of government policy or national strategy. Drugs are most often smuggled through legal ports of entry, frequently by U.S. citizens, using increasingly sophisticated methods. Mexican authorities actively work to disrupt these networks, often at considerable risk and cost.

Mexico is now responsible for a quarter of global fentanyl seizures, as the country is making inroads into the trafficking trade. (Semar/Cuartoscuro)

Trump's framing isn't only misleading, it shifts responsibility away from U.S. demand, domestic trafficking networks, and the public-health dimensions of addiction. Drug trafficking is a shared challenge, and rhetoric that ignores this reality strains cooperation on both sides of the border.

The reality of enforcement

Trump has argued that Mexico does little to control migration and that declines in border crossings are solely the result of his policies. This narrative omits key facts.

Mexico enforces its immigration laws rigorously, often under extraordinary strain. Data from the Migration Policy Institute documents checkpoints, detention centres, deportations, and patrols along Mexico's northern border, many operating with limited resources and constant scrutiny.

Reducing this reality to slogans about walls and tariffs overlooks the complexity on the ground. Mexico isn't passively allowing migration, it's managing a regional humanitarian crisis in real time, while absorbing pressures that never reach U.S. headlines. This effort, while imperfect, reflects the work of countless officials and citizens navigating difficult circumstances.

Exaggerating the threat

Trump often describes Mexico as a cartel-run state where danger is omnipresent. While violence certainly exists, it's uneven and highly localized. Data from Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography shows that large areas of the country, including Mérida, Querétaro, Oaxaca, and most neighbourhoods of Mexico City, remain notably safe.

At its core, Mexico is a vibrant, laid back culture, a world away from the cartel hellscape that U.S. politicians paint it as. (Magdalena Montiel/ Cuartoscuro)

In these places, daily life looks much as it does elsewhere. People walk through parks, shop in markets, and sit in cafés without the constant fear implied by Trump's portrayal.

Distorted narrative

Trump has repeatedly claimed that Mexico doesn't cooperate enough with the U.S. in terms of extraditions. This assertion is demonstrably false and is supported by U.S. Department of Justice data that highlights Mexico's long history of extraditing criminals to the U.S., often under significant political pressure and real danger to the officials involved.

Cooperation between the two countries extends well beyond law enforcement. Extraditions involve complex legal and diplomatic considerations and mischaracterising this history undermines trust while fueling unnecessary suspicion.

Scenes like this do exist, but they're much fewer and further between than some people might be quick to claim. (Keith Dannemiller/IOM)

An oversimplification

Throughout 2025, Trump maintained that walls and tariffs could single-handedly resolve border issues. In reality, migration and trade are shaped by deep-rooted forces including inequality, violence, labour demand, and global supply chains. Treating these challenges as problems with simple, mechanical solutions obscures their true nature.

Trade deficits, which Trump frequently cites as evidence that Mexico is exploiting the U.S., are similarly complex. They reflect consumer behaviour and market dynamics, not wrongdoing. Tariffs, moreover, are paid by U.S. importers, costs that ultimately land on American businesses and consumers, not on Mexico.

Inflated numbers

Trump routinely inflates figures related to illegal crossings, drug deaths, and cartel activity. These exaggerations fuel anxiety and suspicion among audiences watching from afar. For those of us living in Mexico, they more often provoke frustration and disbelief.

Day to day Mexico is vibrant, functional, and resilient. The lesson isn't to dismiss data, but to approach dramatic claims with scepticism and to balance statistics with lived experience.

Residents here often navigate between two competing narratives: the Mexico we know, and the Mexico portrayed in political theatre. That distinction shapes how we live, where we settle, and how we explain our lives to friends and family back home. It reminds us that Mexico isn't a monolith defined by danger, but a country of nuance, contradiction, and endurance.

Beyond fear driven narratives

Trump's narrative about Mexico reflects a broader pattern of exaggeration and blame-shifting. For those relocating to or already living in Mexico, the takeaway is simple: the country is richer, more vibrant, and more complex than any Trump headline or speech suggests. Bureaucracy can be frustrating, crime exists, and governance can feel bewildering at times, but daily life goes on. Families gather, businesses grow, markets buzz, and communities support one another.

Rhetoric has consequences. Words spoken from a political stage shape perceptions, influence policy, and colour everyday interactions. Statements like "Something is gonna have to happen to Mexico" carry weight well beyond the moment they're uttered.

Charlotte Smith is a writer and journalist based in Mexico. Her work focuses on travel, politics, and community.

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Salita Boxing At The Fox

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com) unless otherwise noted

On Saturday, December 20, 2025, Salita promotions held a boxing event at the Fox Theatre. 11 pro boxing events were presented during the event, with local Detroit boxer Tony "Super Bad" Harrison taking on Brian Chaves in the co-main event.

Tony Harrison (31-4-1, 22 KOs) defeated Brian Chaves (from Buenos Aires, 15-8) by TKO (2:59).

Photos are highlights from the Tony Harrison vs. Brian Chaves bout

Marquee outisde the Fox Theatre before the boxing event. Photo by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

(L) Tony Harrison's arm being raised after defeating Brian Chaves by TKO (2:59)

Upcoming Salita Promotions Boxing Events

You're Fired! You Can Stay

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

A few days into the new year and two of the biggest football clubs in the world have sacked their head coaches after barely over a year in charge. Locally, Detroit City FC elected to retain and extend their head coach.

Early Monday morning word came that Manchester United had sacked Ruben Amorim after fourteen months in charge. He joined the club after they had sacked Erik Ten Hag in November 2024. Since that time, he produced the lowest winning percentage of any of the six permanent coaches since Sir Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013. Football is a results business and for a club like United, this could not be tolerated. However, in recent weeks his press conferences had become increasingly depressing even as the club rose to a surprising sixth in the Premier League.

Amorim made it clear that the hierarchy at United had been interfering with his work. In his final meeting with the media as United coach, he called out executives and told them to "do their jobs." Such open criticism of the people who signed his paychecks ultimately resulted in his firing. The tension had been building since the start of the season at United.

For Chelsea's Enzo Maresca, the events and eventual outcome followed the same path. At least Maresca delivered some silverware for Chelsea during his 18 months in charge. He led the club to the Europa Conference League title, UEFA Champions League qualification via the league table, and surprisingly the FIFA Club World Cup title. They easily dispatched Paris St. Germain in the final and looked like moving forward.

Much like Amorim at United, Maresca received unwanted input from club executives regarding tactics, players, and even substitutions during games if you believe the rumors. It all became too much and he left Chelsea on New Year's Day. It will be interesting to see where Maresca and Amorim go next. Maresca has been suggested as a successor to Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. Guardiola has a greater degree of control over the first team at City than either Amorim had at United or Maresca at Chelsea. Both looked at how City operates and wanted the same. Neither Chelsea nor Manchester United were willing to give that away. Both clubs have boards, sporting directors, and other middle managers heavily involved in all aspects of club operations.

Chelsea and United now have caretaker managers, probably until the end of the season. A lot of big names will be available during the summer, especially after the World Cup. Mauricio Pochettino, the current USA manager, and Thomas Tuchel, the German in charge of England, are two of the bigger names, but there are many more. Didier Deschamps of France, Julian Nagelsmann of Germany, and Lionel Scaloni of Argentina will also be available. There is also a long list of club managers reaching the end of their contracts or simply not involved with a team. The supply probably won't outstrip the demand, making the costs of changing bosses high.

Detroit City FC doesn't have the pressure of competing in the Premier League or even MLS. Still, as Danny Dichio approached the end of his contract, speculation about his successor started. The man who brought him in, Trevor James, was dismissed by the club over the summer. Typically, ownership would look for a totally fresh start with a new sporting director and a new coach. The club's performances on the field regressed in 2025 compared to 2024. They dropped from 3rd to 8th in the Eastern Conference, barely making the playoffs. Then, DCFC shocked the league by upending Louisville City in the first round of the playoffs.

Dichio received a two year contract with an option year. That puts him in line to lead the team into their new stadium next year. It's a big commitment by the club. With a miniscule budget compared to the recently sacked Premier League coaches, Dichio has to prove his coaching chops in a far more restrictive environment. There is far less scrutiny from the media, too. Manchester United is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, so a move of this magnitude has to be reported to a global audience. Speculation is that firing Amorim will cost United 12 million English pounds. Maresca probably received a similar payout from Chelsea to leave. When a USL Championship coach is hired, fired, or extended, it barely creates a ripple even in the local market. Perhaps that gives Dichio a bit more security. It's clear he has the support of the ownership, something Amorim and Maresca lost in less than 18 months.

While United and Chelsea are part of the chasing pack in the Premier League, the teams who have set up their managers for the long term are leading the way. Arsenal, Manchester City, and Aston Villa are the top three. Their leadership has been intact over a period of years. The hierarchy of those clubs have marched in lockstep with the coaches: Guardiola at City, Mikel Arteta at Arsenal, and Unai Emery at Aston Villa. All three are reaping the rewards of consistent, well thought out leadership.

DCFC's choice to continue with Dichio looks more like responsible leadership than what the ownership groups of United and Chelsea have shown. With a clear mandate, DCFC can move forward in its last year at Keyworth and look ahead to opening AlumniFi Field in 2027 with a head coach in place.

Wrestling At Taqueria El Rey

Detroit, MI — International Big Time Wrestling (IBW) proudly announces the return of one of professional wrestling's most ground-breaking stars, Nyla Rose, as she steps back into an IBW ring for a highly anticipated Women's Championship showdown on January 17 in Detroit.

Known worldwide as "The Native Beast," Nyla Rose is a true pioneer of modern professional wrestling. She made history as the first-ever AEW Women's World Champion, cementing her legacy as a dominant competitor and trailblazer in the sport. Beyond championships, Rose is widely recognized as a powerful advocate for inclusion and representation within professional wrestling.

"One thing's for certain — Big Mama definitely knows what's up. Real recognizes real," said Rose. "Coming back to International Big Time Wrestling always feels like home — the roster, the fans, the community. This has been a long time overdue."

On January 17, Rose will challenge IBW Women's Champion Big Mama, a powerhouse veteran known for her brute strength, resilience, and unrelenting in-ring style.

"I'll be honest, I don't know if anyone is ever ready for a power-house like Big Mama," Rose continued. "She's big. She's bad. She's a brute. But if dragging her through hell is what I have to do, she better buckle up."

Big Mama, preparing to defend her championship, welcomed the challenge.

"Rollin' back into that International Big Time Wrestling ring feels like coming home," said Big Mama. "Defending my championship against a beast like Nyla Rose? That's exactly the stage Big Mama was born to ride on. I don't quit. I don't back up. And if Nyla wants this gold, she better be ready to drag me through hell — because I sure as hell ain't stoppin'."

The matchup marks one of the most significant women's championship bouts in IBW history, bringing together two dominant forces with national recognition and deep ties to Detroit's independent wrestling scene.

Event Details:
International Big Time Wrestling
January 17, doors open at 6 pm, matches start at 7 pm
Taqueria El Rey – Detroit, MI
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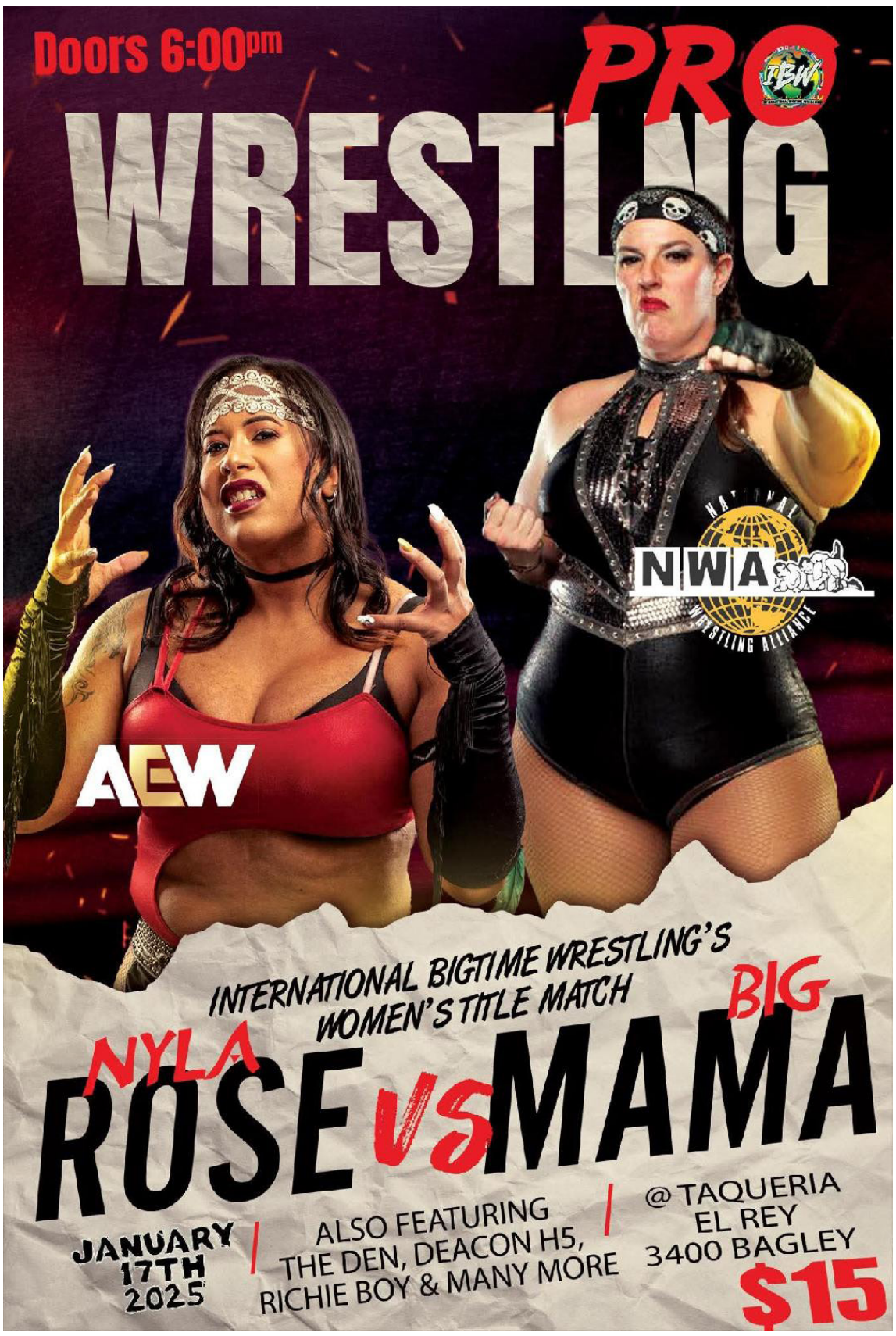

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4200 W. Vernor • Detroit, MI 48209 • (313) 580-0672
info@elcentralmedia.com • elcentralads@aol.com
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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

This is the Real Danger Posed by Trump

A direct line connects Trump's attempted coup five years ago with his incursion into Venezuela last weekend — and his current threats to Colombia, Cuba, and Greenland

By Robert Reich

Trump's domestic and foreign policies — ranging from his attempted coup against the United States five years ago, to his incursion into Venezuela last weekend, to his current threats against Cuba, Colombia, and Greenland — undermine domestic and international law. But that's not all.

They threaten what we mean by civilization.

The moral purpose of civilized society is to prevent the stronger from attacking and exploiting the weaker. Otherwise, we'd be permanently immersed in a brutish war in which only the fittest and most powerful could survive.

This principle lies at the center of America's founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. It's also the core of the post- World War II international order championed by the United States, including the UN Charter — emphasizing multilateralism, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

But it's a fragile principle, easily violated by those who would exploit their power. Maintaining the principle requires that the powerful have enough integrity to abstain from seeking short-term wins, and that the rest of us hold them accountable if they don't.

Every time people or corporations or countries that are richer and more powerful attack and exploit those that are not, the fabric of civilization frays. If such aggression is not contained, the fabric unravels. If not stopped, the world can descend into chaos and war. It has happened before.

We now inhabit a society and world grown vastly more unequal. Political and economic power are more concentrated than ever before. This invites the powerful to exploit the weaker because the powerful feel omnipotent.

The wealth of Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, Charles Koch, and a handful of others is almost beyond comprehension. The influence of Big Tech, Big Oil, and the largest aerospace and defense corporations extends over much of the globe. AI is likely to centralize wealth and power even more. The destructive power of the United States, China, and Russia is unmatched in human history.

Trump — enabled by cowardly congressional Republicans and a pliant majority on the Supreme Court — has turned the U.S. presidency into the most powerful and unaccountable agent of American government in history.

Put it all together and you see the threat.

A direct line connects Trump's attempted coup five years ago to his capture of Nicolas Maduro last weekend. Both were lawless. Both were premised on the hubris of omnipotence.

That same line extends to Trump's current threats against Cuba, Colombia, and Greenland.

You see much the same in Putin's war on Ukraine. In Xi's threats against Taiwan. In global depredation and monopolization by Big Tech and Big Oil. In Russian, Chinese, and American oligarchs who have fused public power with their personal wealth.

But unfettered might does not make right. It makes for instability, upheaval, and war.

History shows that laws and norms designed to constrain the powerful also protect them. Without such constraints, their insatiable demands for more power and wealth eventually bring them down — along with their corporations, nations, or empires. And threaten world war.

Trump's blatant lawlessness will haunt America and the world — and civilization — for years to come.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

OPINIÓN EDITORIAL

Opinión de un invitado:

Este es el verdadero peligro que representa Trump

Existe una conexión directa entre el intento de golpe de Estado de Trump hace cinco años y su incursión en Venezuela el fin de semana pasado, así como sus actuales amenazas a Colombia, Cuba y Groenlandia.

Por Robert Reich

Las políticas internas y externas de Trump —que abarcan desde su intento de golpe de Estado contra Estados Unidos hace cinco años, pasando por su incursión en Venezuela el fin de semana pasado, hasta sus actuales amenazas contra Cuba, Colombia y Groenlandia— socavan el derecho nacional e internacional. Pero eso no es todo.

Amenazan lo que entendemos por civilización.

El propósito moral de la sociedad civilizada es impedir que los más fuertes ataquen y exploten a los más débiles. De lo contrario, estaríamos permanentemente inmersos en una guerra brutal en la que solo los más aptos y poderosos podrían sobrevivir.

Este principio se encuentra en el centro de los documentos fundacionales de Estados Unidos: la Declaración de Independencia, la Constitución y la Declaración de Derechos. También es el núcleo del orden internacional posterior a la Segunda Guerra Mundial, impulsado por Estados Unidos, incluida la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, que enfatiza el multilateralismo, la democracia, los derechos humanos y el estado de derecho.

Pero es un principio frágil, fácilmente violado por quienes pretenden explotar su poder. Mantener este principio requiere que los poderosos tengan la suficiente integridad para abstenerse de buscar victorias a corto plazo, y que el resto de nosotros les exijamos responsabilidades si no lo hacen.

Cada vez que personas, corporaciones o países más ricos y poderosos atacan y explotan a los que no lo son, el tejido de la civilización se deshilacha. Si tal agresión no se contiene, el tejido se desmorona. Si no se detiene, el mundo puede caer en el caos y la guerra. Ya ha sucedido antes.

Ahora habitamos una sociedad y un mundo mucho más desiguales. El poder político y económico está más concentrado que nunca. Esto invita a los poderosos a explotar a los más débiles porque se sienten omnipotentes.

La riqueza de Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, Charles Koch y un puñado de otros es casi incomprensible. La influencia de las grandes empresas tecnológicas, petroleras y las mayores corporaciones aeroespaciales y de defensa se extiende por gran parte del mundo. Es probable que la inteligencia artificial centralice aún más la riqueza y el poder. El poder destructivo de Estados Unidos, China y Rusia no tiene parangón en la historia de la humanidad.

Trump, con el apoyo de los cobardes republicanos del Congreso y una mayoría dócil en la Corte Suprema, ha convertido la presidencia de Estados Unidos en el agente más poderoso e irresponsable del gobierno estadounidense en la historia.

Si juntamos todo esto, vemos la amenaza.

Existe una conexión directa entre el intento de golpe de Estado de Trump hace cinco años y la captura de Nicolás Maduro el fin de semana pasado. Ambos actos fueron ilegales. Ambos se basaban en la arrogancia de la omnipotencia.

Esa misma lógica se extiende a las actuales amenazas de Trump contra Cuba, Colombia y Groenlandia.

Se observa algo muy similar en la guerra de Putin contra Ucrania, en las amenazas de Xi contra Taiwán, en la depredación y monopolización global por parte de las grandes empresas tecnológicas y petroleras, y en los oligarcas rusos, chinos y estadounidenses que han fusionado el poder público con su riqueza personal.

Pero el poder sin límites no otorga la razón. Genera inestabilidad, convulsión y guerra.

La historia demuestra que las leyes y normas diseñadas para limitar a los poderosos también los protegen. Sin tales restricciones, sus insaciables ansias de más poder y riqueza acaban por destruirlos, junto con sus corporaciones, naciones o imperios, y amenazan con una guerra mundial.

La flagrante ilegalidad de Trump perseguirá a Estados Unidos, al mundo y a la civilización durante los próximos años.

Special World's Cultures

Antigua y Barbuda

Antigua y Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda is a country comprised of two larger islands and several smaller ones, forming part of the thirteen islands of the Antilles, as the Caribbean islands are known. The islands of Antigua and Barbuda belong to the Commonwealth of Independent Nations, which is part of the United Kingdom. Therefore, its official language is English; however, the most widely spoken language is Antiguan Creole, which includes words from African languages as well as Native American words. Politically, they have a Prime Minister, but their head of government is King Charles III of England.

Antigua and Barbuda have been inhabited since 2400 BC by Amerindians, including the Arawak and Carib peoples, who populated the islands, giving them the name Wadadli.

Antigua was colonized by the Spanish in 1493 and given the name Antigua in honor of the cathedral of the same name in Seville, Spain. Later in the 17th century, the British Empire colonized the island of Antigua in 1632 and Barbuda in 1678.

Although Antigua and Barbuda are a single country, they have different forms of political administration. Antigua is divided into towns corresponding to parishes, hence they are known as the six parishes: Saint George, Saint John, Saint Mary, Saint Paul, Saint Peter, and Saint Philip; with Saint John as the capital. The other islands that make up the country, Barbuda and Redonda, are under the governance of Antigua.

The flag of Antigua and Barbuda was created in 1963 by a teacher. It depicts a sunrise where the sun represents the dawn of a new era for the country, black represents the African ancestry of the majority of the population, blue represents hope, and red represents energy. The combination of gold, blue, and white also represents the natural environment of the Caribbean islands: sun, sea, and sand.

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ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Pink Beach, Barbuda

Barbuda boasts an exceptional beach, its Pink Sand Beach, due to the large number of pink seashells washed ashore, giving it a pinkish hue against the typical white of Caribbean beaches. The beach is quiet, and the clear turquoise water makes it an ideal place to relax.

Recipe Fungee & Pepperpot

Ingredients for the Fungee:
2 cups cornmeal
1 cup chopped okra
4 cups water
Salt to taste

Ingredients for the Pepperpot:
1 pound pork or beef, cut into chunks
Assorted vegetables (spinach, eggplant, squash), chopped
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
Hot pepper to taste (optional)
Fresh herbs such as thyme or basil
Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

Begin by preparing the Fungee. Bring the water to a boil in a large pot. Gradually add the cornmeal, stirring constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Add the chopped okra and salt. Continue stirring until the mixture thickens. Once thickened, shape the mixture into balls or patties and set aside.

For the Pepperpot, heat oil in a separate pot over medium heat, then add the pieces of meat and brown on all sides. Once the meat is browned, add the onions and garlic and cook until fragrant. Stir in the vegetables along with the hot peppers or chilies; mix well. Cover with water or broth; simmer until the meat is tender and the flavors meld.

Serve the Fungee alongside the Pepperpot, enjoying them separately or dipping one into the other, as you prefer.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Antigua y Barbuda

Antigua y Barbuda

Antigua y Barbuda es un país conformado por dos islas de mayor tamaño más otras pequeñas que forman de las trece Islas de las Antillas, como se les llama a las islas del Caribe. Las Islas de Antigua y Barbuda pertenecen a la Mancomunidad de Naciones independientes que pertenecen al Reino Unido, por lo que su lengua oficial es el inglés, no obstante, la lengua más hablada es el Inglés Criollo de Antigua y Barbuda que incluye palabras de lenguas del continente africano, así como palabras nativoamericanas. En términos políticos cuentan con un Primer Ministro, no obstante, su líder gubernamental es el rey de Inglaterra Carlos III.

Antigua y Barbuda han sido habitadas desde el año 2400 a. C. por amerindios, entre ellos, los Arawak y Caribes quienes poblaron las islas dándoles el nombre de Wadadli.

Antigua fue colonizada por los españoles en 1493 y se le otorgó el nombre de Antigua en honor a la catedral del mismo nombre en Sevilla, España. Posteriormente en el siglo XVII, el imperio británico entró para colonizar la isla de Antigua en 1632 y en 1678 a Barbuda.

Antigua y Barbuda a pesar de ser un solo país, cuentan con diferentes formas de administración política. Antigua está dividida en poblaciones que corresponden a Parroquias, de ahí que se les conozca como las seis Parroquias: Saint George, Saint John, Saint Mary, Saint Paul, Saint Peter, Saint Philip; siendo la capital Saint John. Las otras islas que forman parte del país como son Barbuda y Redonda dependen de la gobernanza de Antigua.

La bandera de Antigua y Barbuda fue creada en 1963 por un profesor, en ésta se muestra un amanecer donde el sol representa el amanecer de una nueva era para el país, el negro representa a los ancestros africanos de la mayoría de la población, el azul la esperanza y el rojo la energía. La combinación amarillo oro, azul y blanco también representa el ambiente natural de las islas del Caribe: sol, mar y arenas.

Playa Rosa, Barbuda

Barbuda, se distingue de otras de las Antillas por su Playa de arena rosa debido a su gran cantidad de conchas de color rosa suave. La playa es silenciosa y el agua azul turquesa claro hace de ella un lugar ideal para descansar.

Receta Fungee y Pepperpot

Ingredientes para el Fungee:
2 tazas de harina de maíz
1 taza de okra picada
4 tazas de agua
Sal al gusto

Ingredientes para el Pepperpot:
1 libra de carne de cerdo o ternera, cortada en trozos
Verduras variadas (espinacas, berenjena, calabaza), picadas
1 cebolla, cortada en dados
2 dientes de ajo, picados
Pimiento picante al gusto (opcional)
Hierbas frescas como tomillo o albahaca
Sal y pimienta al gusto

Preparación:

Comienza preparando el Fungee, para eso es necesario poner a hervir en una olla grande. Posteriormente agrega gradualmente la harina de maíz sin dejar de remover para evitar que se formen grumos. Añade la okra picada y sal. Sigue removiendo hasta que la mezcla espese. Una vez espesada, da forma de bolas o hamburguesas a la mezcla y reserva.

Para el Pepperpot, calienta aceite en una olla aparte a fuego medio, luego añade los trozos de carne y dora por todos los lados. Una vez dorada la carne, añádele las cebollas y el ajo hasta que desprendan aroma. Incorpora las verduras junto con los pimientos picantes o chiles; remueve bien. Cubre con agua o caldo; cocina a fuego lento hasta que la carne esté suave y los sabores se fundan.

Sirve el Fungee junto con el estofado Pepperpot, disfrutándolos por separado o mojando uno en el otro, según prefieras.

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Clark Park Presents 14th Annual Winter Carnival and Hockey Classic

Get ready for a day of free family fun at Clark Park on Saturday, January 17 when the Clark Park Coalition hosts its 14th Annual Winter Carnival & Outdoor Charity Classic hockey game. Everyone is welcome to join in on the excitement from noon to 4 p.m. with ice skating, a petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides, marshmallow roasting, s'mores, exploring the nature van from Huron Metro Parks, outdoor games, and a very special visit from Detroit fire fighters.

Hockey fans are invited to cheer on the men when they take to the ice for their annual Charity Classic game at 6 p.m. Clark Park is located just off I-75 at 1130 Clark Avenue in the heart of Southwest Detroit.

"Every year the Winter Carnival gets better and better," said long-time community resident and Clark Park board member Christina Guzman. "I'm looking forward to seeing what they have in store for us this year."

"This is the 12th year since we've included the Winter Classic hockey game," said Carnival Director and Clark Park COO Kate Brennan. "Free Press columnist and former Fox 2 investigative reporter ML Elrick and attorney Mike Rataj established the game in 2015 as a way to raise extra funds for the park, and we greatly appreciate the support."

She explained that the players raise funds and donate money to participate in the game. The Winter Carnival and Charity Hockey Classics are the major fundraisers for Clark Park, which is also supported by Patronicity, which hosts an online fundraiser at Clark Park Winter Carnival 2026. "No donation is too big or too small," Brennan said. "And it all helps us provide activities for the kids year-round."

Winter Carnival sponsors include DTE Energy Foundation Fund, Huntington Bancshares Fund, Henry Ford Health, Thomas Magee's Sporting House and Whiskey Bar, the Brennan Group, the Ideal Group, the Allen Rice Fund/Metropolitan United Women in Faith, ML Soul of Detroit, and Credit Union One.

About Clark Park Coalition

In 1991 concerned parents and other local residents succeeded in forming the Clark Park Coalition after the park was closed due to the City's financial crisis. Celebrating 34 years in partnership with the City of Detroit Recreation Department, the Coalition has kept the park open to provide year-round programming for thousands of youths, including outdoor ice hockey and skating in the winter, baseball, softball and arts programs with free lunches to more than 100 youth daily throughout the summer. It serves as the "town square" to a thriving area in southwest Detroit, while being utilized as a popular meeting place for family picnics and gatherings.

The Winter Carnival activities and the hockey game are free of charge. Call 313 841-8534 or visit www.clarkparkdetroit.com for more information. To make a donation, visit https://www.patronicity.com/projects/search_projects?-search=Clark+Park+2026